

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 06427 152103Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 STR-07 COME-00

AGR-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 /074 W

-----101008 152113Z /12

O 152030Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8661

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 6427

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRG, BR

SUBJ: COFFEE: FROST THREAT

1. ECONOMIC OFFICERS VISITED JORIO DAUSTER, BASIC PRODUCTS DIVISION, FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO DISCUSS CURRENT COFFEE SITUATION. DAUSTER STATED THAT, PRESS REPORTS NOTWITHSTANDING, IT IS TOO EARLY TO MAKE ANY JUDGEMENTS ON THE EFFECTS OF LOW TEMPERATURES IN CENTRAL PARANA ON THE COFFEE CROP. ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION, THE FROST REPORTED IN AUG 15 NEWSPAPERS, REPORTING ON WEATHER ON AUG 14, HAD ONLY BURNED LEAVES OF COFFEE TREES IN MARGINAL AREAS OF PARANA, AND HAD NOT AFFECTED THE IMPORTANT COFFEE REGIONS IN NORTHERN AREAS OF THE STATE. HE DID SAY THAT WEATHER PATTERNS SHOW A POSSIBILITY OF FROSTS IN THESE MORE IMPORTANT REGIONS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. ON THE EFFECTS OF ANOTHER MAJOR FROST ON THE BRAZILIAN ECONOMY DAUSTER FELT THAT UNLIKE THE 1975 FROST, DAMAGE TO BRAZILIAN COFFEE PRODUCING AREAS THIS YEAR WOULD BE A DISASTER.

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ALTHOUGH HIGHER COFFEE PRICES WOULD HELP THE BRAZILIAN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OVER THE "NEXT SIX MONTHS", LOW STOCK LEVELS MEANS THAT ANY MAJOR DAMAGE TO THE 1978/79 HARVEST WOULD LEAVE BRAZIL WITHOUT SUFFICIENT COFFEE TO SELL ON THE WORLD MARKET. FURTHER, ANOTHER SHARP JUMP IN PRICES WOULD AGGRAVATE THE DECLINE IN CONSUMPTION AND WOULD PROBABLY MEAN THE COLOMBIA WOULD SURPASS BRAZIL AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST COFFEE EXPORTER. IN

FACT, DAUSTER WOULD SEE COLOMBIA, WITH SIX MILLION BAGS OF COFFEE IN STOCK, AS THE MAJOR WINNER IF MAJOR FROST DAMAGE OCCURS.

3. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON DISCUSSION ON INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT. SAYRE

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